



MICHIGAN'S AMERICORPS *LEADERCORPS* 2014-2015

Mission:

To strengthen the national service movement and the awareness of AmeriCorps in Michigan through effective outreach, community-wide service projects, and civic engagement.

Goals:

- Provide a forum for AmeriCorps members to network, interact, and learn about other programs in the state.
- Raise awareness of the AmeriCorps identity in Michigan.
- Promote AmeriCorps as a meaningful and inclusive service opportunity for all Americans.
- Promote involvement of programs and members in statewide events, such as the Michigan's AmeriCorps Member Celebration, AmeriCorps Week, regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Projects, and the Governor's Service Awards.
- Expand leadership and professional development opportunities for AmeriCorps members.
- Encourage continued involvement of AmeriCorps alumni in the national service movement.

Membership:

- The LeaderCorps will consist of Michigan's AmeriCorps members and a minimum of one of the following: AmeriCorps*National member, AmeriCorps*VISTA member/leader, or AmeriCorps Alum.
- Each Michigan's AmeriCorps program is responsible for selecting (by nomination, vote, etc.), one representative for the LeaderCorps on an annual basis.
- Members selected to serve on LeaderCorps must be willing and able to:
 - Serve as ambassadors of Michigan's AmeriCorps.
 - Participate in face-to-face meetings, AmeriCorps statewide events, and conference calls (reliable transportation is required for face-to-face meetings and statewide events).
 - Act as a liaison, as well as a conduit of information between AmeriCorps programs and the Michigan Community Service Commission, sharing updates and information on a regular basis.
 - Follow through on deadlines as established by the LeaderCorps.
 - Maintain communication with other LeaderCorps members outside of scheduled meeting time.
 - Conduct at least two outreach presentations on AmeriCorps and national service.
 - Assist with the coordination of AmeriCorps Week and Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Project activities and events in his/her community.
 - Promote and participate in national days of service events such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Global Youth Service Day, and Make a Difference Day, as well as MCSC sponsored events such as the Governor's Service Awards.

Requirements for 2014-2015:

Service Project around National Days of Service

Each LeaderCorps member will be responsible for coordinating at least one service project or activity for his/her program in conjunction with at least one of the National Days of Service (MLK Day, Global Youth Service Day, 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, Make a Difference Day). Projects and/or events must help meet at least one of the following goals:

- Promote national service as an opportunity and a bridge to skill building, career development, and community inclusion.
- Develop ongoing state and local level relationships among nonprofit organizations, schools, and/or businesses.

LeaderCorps members located in the same region are strongly encouraged to work together. All representatives should complete a one-page summary of their service project/event, which must be submitted to the MCSC by July 31, 2015.

Two Outreach Presentations

Each LeaderCorps member will be responsible for conducting two community outreach presentations in his/her community. *One of these presentations must be to the disability community.* Presentations will be made to increase community awareness of the local AmeriCorps program, its impact and service opportunities, as well as information about other national service programs. The MCSC will work with representatives to identify appropriate organizations and groups for which to present. A general presentation format and training will be provided at the November LeaderCorps meeting. Each representative will be responsible for scheduling, planning, and carrying out the presentations, in addition to submitting an outreach presentation report. All report forms must be completed and submitted to the MCSC by July 31, 2015.

Great Stories / Alum Spotlight Submissions

Each LeaderCorps member is expected to submit at least two Great Stories about his/her program and/or one Alum Spotlight. The Great Stories should promote the program as an opportunity for others to serve their community or highlight a special program event or accomplishment. The Alum Spotlight should highlight an individual whose service impacted their life and/or career choice.

Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Projects

Each LeaderCorps member will assist with the coordination of the regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Projects (scheduled to take place on either May 15 or May 16, 2015).

Serving as a Liaison

Each LeaderCorps member must be active in representing his/her program during LeaderCorps meetings, and in return, communicate information at each of his/her regular program meetings. *LeaderCorps members must copy program directors and site supervisors on communications regarding LeaderCorps conference calls, meetings, and other events that will require time away from day-to-day program activities.* A summary of key points will be provided for LeaderCorps representatives to share at his/her program meetings.

Unofficial Representatives:

No program should have more than one representative on LeaderCorps. *If a program does not have a member representative designated and in attendance by the January retreat, the program will forgo representation on LeaderCorps during that given year.*

Attendance:

LeaderCorps members are expected to attend each meeting. If a compelling circumstance arises, it is the responsibility of the member to inform the MCSC liaison of his/her absence. The member must contact both the MCSC liaison and their Leadership Team chair to get an update on the missed meeting.

If a LeaderCorps member has two unexcused absences from meetings/conference calls, he/she is no longer eligible to participate in LeaderCorps. For the remainder of the year, that member's AmeriCorps program will forgo LeaderCorps representation.

Support Services/Advisement:

The MCSC will provide a staff liaison (Megan Foresman, AmeriCorps Program Officer) to be an acting advisor and support LeaderCorps endeavors and activities. All outgoing communications, financial and supply requests, and meeting/event scheduling must be directed through the liaison. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Securing meeting times and places
- Coordinating training and member development opportunities
- Distribution of meeting memos, agendas, and summaries
- Assisting Leadership Teams with project planning and implementation
- Updating guidelines and member rosters
- Promoting and recognizing LeaderCorps accomplishments

Leadership Teams:

All representatives will serve on Leadership Teams, which will be determined at the first meeting of the year. Examples of Leadership Team activities may include:

- Communicate professional development opportunities and help develop strategies to create a positive member experience.
- Help engage AmeriCorps alums and support their continued involvement by connecting them with opportunities to remain involved with service and volunteerism through local projects and events, AmeriCorps Alums chapters, and the AmeriCorps Alums LinkedIn group.
- Promote national days of service and provide guidance on volunteer recruitment strategies.
- Manage the monthly nomination process for the Alum and Site Supervisor Spotlights on the MCSC website.
- Utilize technology and the web to promote Michigan's AmeriCorps through appropriate social media outlets (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.).
- Provide assistance to all LeaderCorps members to ensure they are on track with completing their two outreach presentations.
- Oversee the production, development, and distribution of a Michigan's AmeriCorps newsletter or other promotional publication.
- Create an informational resource on how to effectively utilize the Eli Segal Education Award and how to find schools that offer incentives for AmeriCorps alums.

Service Hours:

All LeaderCorps members will receive training hours for the time spent in member training and in meetings. Travel time will be granted in accordance with each program's normal policy. Members may receive up to 10 hours per month for their Leadership Team responsibilities outside of general LeaderCorps meetings/conference calls.

Here's what former LeaderCorps members are saying...



"Being on LeaderCorps was one of my favorite experiences during my AmeriCorps year. You will have the opportunity to learn so much, as well as make your love for national service grow. It is an amazing opportunity that you will never forget. Enjoy every minute of it!"

"My involvement in LeaderCorps has completely shaped my service year, and has exceeded my expectations for helping me navigate my next professional steps."



"I became a part of a network that crosses both geographic boundaries and boundaries of expertise. Through LeaderCorps, I became more comfortable with myself and my role as a leader, and was able to take that to my program to help our director in trainings and welcoming new members. Without being given the specific 'LeaderCorps' title and the trainings provided through LeaderCorps, I would not have been comfortable taking on the leadership role that was a necessity to our program. LeaderCorps gave me the skills to become an ambassador and advocate to the AmeriCorps program and community service in Michigan."

"The perspective gained from meeting members from different programs across the state is invaluable. LeaderCorps has allowed me to see how my specific program fits into the fabric of AmeriCorps and national service."

"I learned a lot from my program about serving the community and the state; but through LeaderCorps, I have learned a lot of about myself and being a better leader. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience with LeaderCorps! I enjoyed spending time with the other LeaderCorps members, constantly learning new things, and meeting new people."

"The LeaderCorps experience was the best part of my AmeriCorps service. I was not only able to grow in my own abilities and skill set, but I was able to work with a team that successfully developed materials that furthered the awareness and education of inclusive practices for service. One of our projects – the inclusion video contest – came out of a team conversation and grew into a fully realized project that will be replicable for years to come."

"LeaderCorps helped me unlock the new found passion I have toward working, serving, and collaborating with nonprofits. Through LeaderCorps I gained more of an understanding of who I was and the pathway I wanted my career to take. I put myself out there in situations I normally would not have, and through that I networked and built many friendships across Michigan."

"I really enjoyed the opportunities LeaderCorps gave me to step outside my current position and do something different. I wanted to do formatting on a newsletter, so I volunteered and did it. I wanted to give presentations at colleges and high schools, so I did. LeaderCorps equipped me to serve in these capacities, but also gave me the "excuse" to do many things that I will now put on my resumé. You will have very real responsibilities while you serve on LeaderCorps, but you should be on the look-out for ways you can develop yourself for your life after AmeriCorps, too. LeaderCorps is a great source for professional development."

